

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 NEA-10 L-03

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 HEW-06 AGR-10 OES-06 COME-00 CEA-01 CIEP-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DIWY-01 /118 W

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R 270740Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONGEN MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NIAMEY 1826

MONTREAL FOR ICAO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG;  
VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECRP, UNDP, NG

SUBJECT: CERP 0008: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN NIGER

REF: STATE 072386

RESPONSES KEYED TO REFTEL

A) SINCE ARRIVING TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO, UNDP RESREP  
ALEXANDER ROTIVAL HAS BEEN CAPABLE LEADER OF UNDP AND UN  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN NIGER. RESREP IS VERY  
MUCH UN "DIPLOMAT" WITHIN FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND RELATIONS  
WITH GON ARE EXCELLENT ON ALL LEVELS. IBRD (REGIONAL OFFICE IN  
ABIDJAN) AND UNDP ACTIVITIES SEEM WELL ORCHESTRATED TO AVOID  
DUPLICATION. IBRD MISSIONS MAKE RESREP AND/OR DEPUTY POINT OF  
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REFERENCE COMING AND GOING. NIGER HAS THREE RESIDENT COUNTRY

AGENCY DIRECTORS: WHO, FAO AND WFP -- ALL BELIEVED NECESSARY BECAUSE OF LARGE SCOPE OF AGENCY OPERATIONS IN NIGER. THERE ARE ALSO ILO AND UNDAT PROGRAMS WHICH ARE COORDINATED BY RESREP. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE COUNTRY AGENCY DIRECTORS HAVE EASY AND FREQUENT INFORMAL ACCESS TO RESREP AND ARE CONSIDERED INTEGRAL PART OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE.

B) MULTILATERAL DONOR COORDINATION HERE IS INFORMAL BY NECESSITY -- GON PREFERS BILATERAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MAJOR DONORS. IN PRINCIPLE, RELEVANT GON MINISTRY IDENTIFIES NEED AND PASSES PROJECT ON TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHICH WEIGHS PROPOSAL AGAINST NATIONAL PRIORITIES. REQUEST THEN PASSES TO SECRETARIAT FOR COOPERATION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR PRESENTATION TO DONORS. (EXACT ROLE OF NEWLY-CREATED MINISTRY OF PLAN IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMGBG NOT YET CLEAR.) RESREP'S COORDINATING ROLE AMONG MAJOR DONORS IS AD HOC AND BASED ON PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH MISSION CHIEFS. INFORMAL ENCOUNTERS HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT MEANS OF DISSEMINATING INFORMATION AMONG DONORS ABOUT LONGER-TERM PROJECTS. UNDP ALSO COMPILES ROUTINE ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF TOTAL DONOR ASSISTANCE.

C) AUSTERITY MEASURES TAKEN BY UN HEADQUARTERS HAD MODERATE EFFECT ON 1976 PROGRAMMING HERE. SPENDING STILL ON THE RISE FROM 2.9 MILLION DOLS FOR 1975 TO 3.2 MILLION DOLS FOR 1976. 1976 INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE HAS BEEN MET BY NIGER'S ACCESS TO SPECIAL UN FUNDS INCLUDING SPECIAL LDC FUNDS, AND (2) SPECIAL SAHEL DROUGHT FUND. HOWEVER, UNDP DEPUTY REPORTS THAT PLANNED SPENDING -- PRIMARILY PRELIMINARY STUDIES -- WOULD HAVE BEEN HIGHER IF FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS HAD NOT BEEN IMPOSED. AXE HAS FALLEN ON ONE ONGOING PROJECT, THE SAY ARRONDISSEMENT HYDROGEOLOGICAL STUDY, BUT HARDEST HIT HAVE BEEN NUMBER OF PROJECTS STILL IN PRELIMINARY - STUDY STAGE INCLUDING TELECOMMUNICATIONS STUDY, SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, SOIL SURVEY, AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECT. REAL IMPACT OF FINANCIAL CUTS SHOULD BE MOST EVIDENT IN INITIAL STAGES OF SECOND PROGRAMMING CYCLE, WHICH MUST BE SCALED DOWN. RESREP HAD HOPED FOR RISING TEMPO OF PROGRAMMING END 1976, NOW UNREALISTIC IN UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEW OF FINANCIAL CONSTRICTIONS. AS COVERED IN SECTION (D) BELOW, EFFECT ON NEW UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE SINCE PROGRAMMING OF SECOND CYCLE STILL STYMIED.

D) PROGRAMMING FOR 1977-81 UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMS DUE TO BEGIN THIS YEAR, BUT PRELIMINARY MEETINGS HAVE NOT YET BEEN HELD. ONE OBSTACLE SEEMS TO BE PERIODIC POSTPONEMENT AND CHANGING EMPHASIS OF GON THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WHICH

IS SUPPOSED TO ACT AS GUIDE FOR UNDP AND DONORS. IN ABSENCE OF THREE-YEAR PLAN, UNDP PROGRAMMING IS NOW PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT BUILT-IN PRIORITIES WILL INCLUDE RURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. ACCENT OF UNDP PROGRAMS WILL REMAIN ON TRAINING AND EDUCATION AND FALL IN SECTORS WHERE OTHER DONORS NOT ACTIVE.

FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF NIGER COUNTRY PROGRAM HELD JULY 1975. REVIEW SEEMED REASONABLY EFFECTIVE IN EVALUATING PROGRAMMING DIRECTION AND ALSO IN IDENTIFYING DEFICIENCIES IN INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON PROGRAMS IN RURAL SECTOR, LESS EMPHASIS ON PROJECTS WITH NO TRAINING COMPONENT, AND ALSO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO DIVERSIFY PROGRAMMING TO OTHER SECTORS. SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY-JUNE 1976.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 NIAMEY 1826

MONTREAL FOR ICAO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG;  
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E) MOST ONGOING UNDP PROJECTS SEEM RELEVANT TO NIGER'S

DEVELOPMENT AND REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. TRIPARTITE PROJECT REVIEW SYSTEM FIRST MET IN 1975. PROJECT REPORTS SUBMITTED EVERY SIX MONTHS TO GON, UNDP AND EXECUTING AGENCY. IN GENERAL, PROJECTS ARE REVIEWED AT MID-TERM; TROUBLED PROJECTS ARE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION--HEADQUARTERS VISITS IF NECESSARY. REVIEW SYSTEM SEEMS GENERALLY EFFECTIVE IN IDENTIFYING AND HEADING OFF EARLY PROBLEMS.

MOST SUCCESSFUL PROJECT REMAINS NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION (71/520), ALTHOUGH TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF FOREIGN INSTRUCTORS WITH NIGERIENS BY 1980 IS UNLIKELY TO BE MET. UNDP SUPPORT FOR THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING SCHOOL (71/523) WILL FINISH ON SCHEDULE THIS YEAR. OTHER SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

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INCLUDE REGIONAL PLANIFICATION PROJECT PLACING ECONOMISTS AT DEPARTMENT LEVEL (69/004); PRODUCTION REVIEW OF MALBAZA CEMENT FACTORY (72/004); WELL-DRILLING AND TRAINING PROJECT (72/006); AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MANAGERS OF MIXED CAPITAL ENTERPRISES (72/001).

FIRST UNDP PROJECT IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR--THE DALLO MAUOURI PROJECT (70/516) -- HAS PROVED TO BE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT. PROJECT WAS TERMINATED 1974 AND UNDP HAS APPARENTLY DRAWN LESSONS TO AVOID RECURRENCE. OCCASIONALLY PROJECTS SEEM TO LACK SUFFICIENT PRELIMINARY PLANNING AND ANALYSIS. AS A RESULT, ACCURATE ACCOUNT IS NOT TAKEN OF GON CAPACITY FOR FILLING COUNTERPART REQUIREMENTS IN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL. RECENT NATIONAL CENSUS PROJECT THROUGH USE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY (75/001) HAS RUN INTO PROBLEMS BECAUSE GON LATER UNABLE TO COMMIT NECESSARY PERSONNEL FOR GROUND VERIFICATION. HOWEVER, UNDP USUALLY LIMITS GON COUNTERPART REQUIREMENTS REALISTICALLY TO BUILDING SPACE AND PERSONNEL, AND GON HAS GENERALLY SUCCEEDED IN REPLACING DEPARTING TECHNICIANS.

F) CLOSE AND FREQUENT CONTACTS MAINTAINED BETWEEN UNDP STAFF AND EMBASSY. APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON OFFICER THOUGH UNNECESSARY IN LIGHT OF CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN RESREP, AMBASSADOR AND RDO. COMMENTS ON 1972-76 COUNTRY PROGRAM LAST SUBMITTED NIAMEY 0056 OF JANUARY 7, 1974.

G) THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC UN PROJECTS IN NIGER FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. MAJOR PART OF PROBLEM LIES WITH TRADITIONAL MOSLEM ATTITUDES OF HOST COUNTRY, BUT POST BELIEVES THAT MORE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BY UNDP COULD MAKE IMPROVEMENT. SCHOOL FOR NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION (71/520) IS ADMITTING SMALL BUT INCREASING NUMBERS OF WOMEN AND PUBLIC HEALTH

TRAINING SCHOOL (71/523) HAS ADMITTED WOMEN AT "EXPERT"  
LEVELS. INCLUDED IN KOLLO AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL PROJECT  
IS SMALL PROGRAM TO TRAIN RURAL WOMEN IN RURAL MARKETING.  
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